View from the
Blackdown Hills

Est 2004 Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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Issue No 142 December 2016

Air crash may have been a result of pilot's 'mental lapse'

THE Garvey family who died as a result of plane crash near Churchinford in November 2015

AN aircraft crash, which killed a family of four, may have been caused by the pilot's "mental lapse", a report has found.

Pilot Philip Garvey, 56, his wife Ann, 55, and their children Emily, 23, and Daniel, 20, died when their plane crashed near Churchinford in November 2015.

The Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) said it was possible the pilot tried to manually start landing while the autopilot was still on.

They were flying from Surrey to Devon.

The AAIB's report said it was an overcast and rainy day and all planned flights at Dunkeswell Airfield, where Mr Garvey was flying to from Fairoaks Airport in Surrey close to the family's home in Woking, had been cancelled because of the weather.

Several witnesses told the AAIB they heard a sound like a plane doing "aerobatics" before the Piper Malibu Mirage appeared from cloud and hit the ground near Churchinford in the Blackdown Hills south of Taunton.

The AAIB said: "The evidence from the autopilot examination system suggested that, as the pilot turned on to the final approach and started to descend, the autopilot may not have been disengaged due to a mental lapse, incorrect button selection or a technical fault."

The plane was seen to quickly climb into cloud before coming down.

The AAIB concluded it was "unable to determine with certainty the reason for the initial rapid climb", but said attempting to override the autopilot would have caused the plane to go "nose up" as it would fight to maintain its set height.

While the aircraft could still have been controllable, it said "recovery may have been beyond his capabilities".

Mr Garvey had been a pilot since 2012 and had flown to Dunkeswell 25 times since 2013, including 14 times from Fairoaks.

His instructors told investigators he was "less able than average pilots at multi-tasking and poor at prioritising especially when under pressure".

Another instructor said Mr Garvey "would often have difficulty dealing with an unusual or unexpected conditions".

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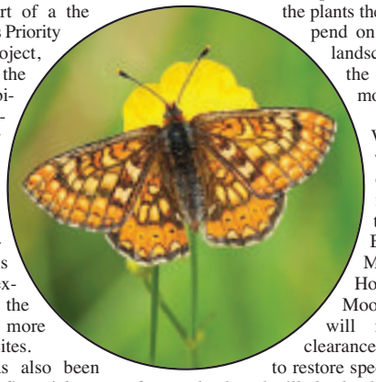
£20,000 grant to help protect butterfly populations in the hills

SOMERSET Wildlife Trust, together with the Blackdown Hills Trust, has received funding of more than £20,000, to support its work in the Blackdown Hills to reverse the decline of four key butterfly species.

The grant has come from Viridor Credits, through the Landfill Communities Fund.

The two organisation's activities, which form part of a the Blackdown Hills Priority Butterflies Project, will ensure that the very specific habitats the butterflies enjoy for feeding and breeding can be restored and enriched, and then joined up to enable populations to grow and expand through the ability to move more freely between sites.

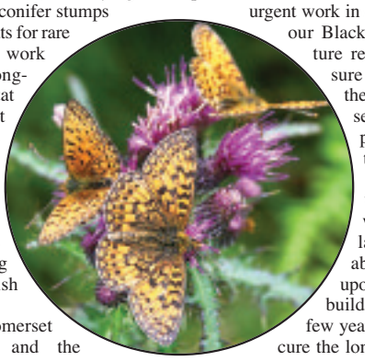


The work has also been given additional financial support from the Blackdown Hills AONB.

The habitat preferred by the Marsh Fritillary, Small Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Brown Hairstreak and Narrow-Bordered Bee Hawk-Moth needs to be carefully managed, as their survival depends on having particular plants and flowers to lay their eggs and to feed. This is why, using the funds awarded, efforts will be focused on protecting and restoring wetland, grassland and open woodland on the Blackdown Hills, which will promote the growth of the plants the butterflies depend on and make the landscape easier for the butterflies to move through.

Somerset Wildlife Trust will be carrying out habitat management at their reserves at Bishopswood Meadows, Jan Hobbs and Yarty Moor. The work will include scrub clearance and coppicing to restore species rich grassland and will also lay hedges to create a varied hedge structure.

The Blackdown Hills Trust, which leases more than 200 hectares of open land within the Forestry Commission's Neroche forest estate, is carrying out mulching of old conifer stumps to improve habitats for rare butterflies. This work continues a long-term habitat restoration project begun 10 years ago with the removal of the conifer plantations, and continued ever since through grazing using English Longhorn cattle.



Both Somerset Wildlife Trust and the Blackdown Hills Trust have extensive experience in connecting core patches of habitat together to create a sustainable environment for species. Somerset Wildlife Trust is a member of the partnership that has re-established Large Blue butterflies in the Polden Hills. Their Green Down Reserve has one of the largest populations of Large Blues in Europe.

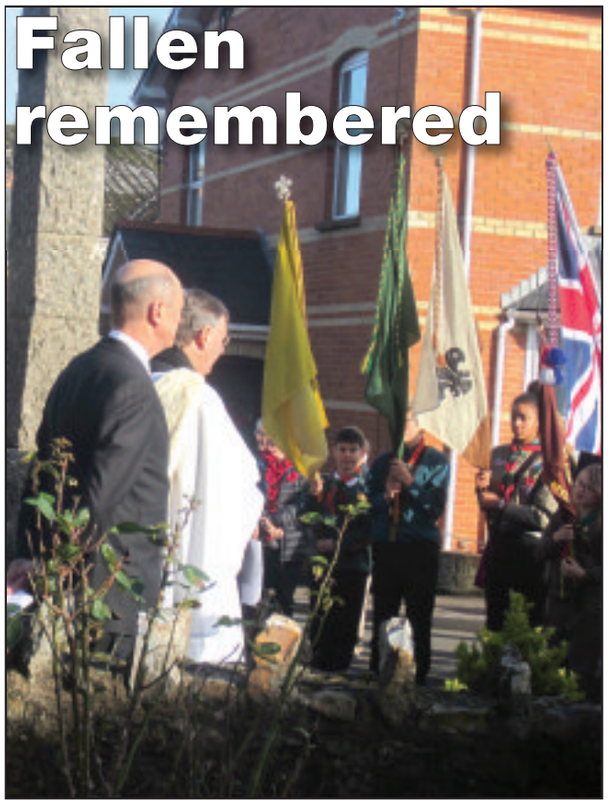
David Leach, Grants and Trust Manager for Somerset Wildlife Trust said: "Seventy-six per cent of the UK's butterfly species have declined over the past four decades. We need to carry out urgent work in strongholds like our Blackdown Hills nature reserves to make sure they can play their part in conserving butterfly populations nationally.

"The grants we've received will enable us to lay a considerable foundation upon which we can build over the next few years so we can secure the longer term future for these vulnerable species."

Gavin Saunders, who co-ordinates management work for the Blackdown Hills Trust, said: "Thanks to support from Viridor Credits we can continue work which relies on long-term commitment from funders, local community groups and national agencies alike."

LEFT: The Marsh Fritillary by Amy Lewis; and above: Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries by Tom Marshall

Fallen remembered



ALMOST 200 people gathered at St Mary's church, Hemyock, for the annual Remembrance Sunday service.

The service was preceded by a parade from the parish hall, which included the church choir, uniformed youth groups and members of the public. The service was taken by The Reverend David Burton with reading by Hazel Partridge and the poem *I Am Not a badge of Honour* read by David Bawler.

At the war memorial, wreaths were laid on behalf of the parish council, 1st Hemyock Scout Group, 1st Hemyock Brownies and the primary school with the Exhortation and Kohima Epitaph led by Tim Barton.

The collection of £444 will be donated to the Royal British Legion.

Jamie continues the Blackmore tradition

JAMIE Blackmore has revived a long family tradition by becoming the fourth generation of Blackmore in 50 years to serve on their parish council.

His great grandfather John and his grandfather Tom were both chairmen of Clayhidon Parish Council and his uncle Richard was also a member for a few years.

Jamie, a dairy farmer, of Culmcott, Clayhidon, was the only candidate to put his name forward before the deadline. He fills the vacancy created by Alex Hill's resignation.

Nick Sanderson, Mid Devon's returning officer, said he had been validly nominated and in the absence of any challenger declared him to have been elected without a contest.

Jamie's election brings the number of Clayhidon's parish councillors who are farmers to five out of seven.

JAMIE Blackmore

Church to hold Christmas fair

HEMYOCK'S St Mary's Church and Culm Davy Chapel will be holding a Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 3rd.

Held at the Hemyock Parish Hall, and running from 2-4pm, the annual event promises to have an array of festive stalls including cakes, raffles, savouries, books, bric a brac, and much more. For children there will be a pocket money stall, craft and lucky dip.

After browsing the stalls teas and mince pies will be for sale.

Parish network talks through issues with MPs

BROADBAND, buses and Brexit were among topics discussed between eight delegates from the Blackdown Hills Parish Network and MPs Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane) and Neil Parish (Tiverton & Honiton).

Another topic was the problems with joined up planning and action within the the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, caused by the Somerset/Devon border.

After discussion among delegates and guests, one of the outcomes was to call together staff from highways departments of both Devon and Somerset in a bid to get cohesion of policies on such things as signs banning HGVs from attempting to sat nav their way through tiny narrow lanes.

Another was an invitation for both MPs to perform the opening ceremony when private broadband company Gigaclear "lights-up" its first ultrafast fibre broadband to the first of up to 900 homes in the Blackdowns in the New Year.

Neil Punnett of Hemyock told the MPs there was a greater need for affordable homes across the Blackdown Hills than current Local Plans allow. A recent survey by his parish council showed a need for 26 affordable homes and 18 open market homes, while Mid Devon District Council's requirement is 65 per cent open market and 35 per cent affordable.

He also asked for assurance that the extension of tenants right to buy from housing associations would not apply in settlements of less than 3,000, nor in AONBs, and asked for more Government support for self build homes.

Mike Bell, of Membury, raised the issue of small parishes being labelled unsustainable, so depriving them of opportunities for much needed new housing for locals. With the rollout of broadband and a fast growing number of businesses run from rural areas smaller settlements will become more, not less sustainable.

Ken Pearson, of Stockland, reported a high level of concern in parishes with HGV traffic, and the state of road maintenance. He asked the MPs to intervene so that Devon and Somerset could work on a scheme to improve the junctions on the A303/30 without endangering the AONB tranquillity and biodiversity. He also asked MPs to support community transport applications for funding.

Graham Long of Upottery asked the MPs to help speed up and simplify the process for allowing utility and service providers to do roadworks, reconsider a new business rating structure, which will become a tax on fast broadband provision, and ensure broadband advertising is honest so that fibre to the cabinet, incorporating copper to the premises, is distinguished from fibre to the premises.

Heather Stallard, chairman of the steering group, spoke about Brexit and concern over the future of agricultural stewardship schemes, the termination of European funding through Leader schemes, and the availability of skilled labour in all sectors including agriculture , building and care.

She also complained about the fact that parishes are being asked to take over the maintenance ofpublic amenities, such as car parks and toilets, from district councils and then being charged business rates.

Linda Bennett, manager of the AONB, also spoke to the MPs about the Monkton bypass planned for the A303, about problems with planning issues and said they were producing a design guide for agricultural buildings. The meeting was chaired by Bruce Payne of Wellington without Parish.

The Blackdown Hills Parish Network is holding an AGM at Smeatharpe Village Hall on November 24th at 7.30, open to all residents.

Overwhelming support for shoebox appeal

■ GENEROUS donations from the people of Hemyock and surrounding areas saw 102 shoeboxes packed with Christmas gifts be donated to the Devon charity Christian Response to Eastern Europe (CR2EE).

There were also numerous bags of toys, good quality secondhand clothes and bedding and cash donations as well as knitted garments including more than 60 hats and a dozen pairs of teddy bear mittens made by local organiser Janice Bawler.

Mrs Bawler said: "Once again I have been overwhelmed by people's generosity. CR2EE deliver the shoeboxes to Romania and Moldova not only to children, but to all family members, and whilst cash donations are always welcome, the charity do not ask that contributions accompany the boxes. Many thanks to all who have contributed. Your kindness will bring great joy to those who otherwise may not receive any gifts at Christmas."

If you would like more details about how you can be part of next year's collection, contact jbawler1947@hotmail.co.uk.

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Blackdowns clubs and organisations

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Clayhidon Friends

CHRISTMAS is not so far away, and members have been able to make attractive decorations for the festive season during the last two meetings.

Margaret Brotheridge, with help from Tina Barns, set up a craft studio in the parish hall with a work table, on which there were little wooden Christmassy shapes, acetates, paint, glitter and glue.

Members painted and decorated at the first meeting, then after further embellishments and trimming at the second meeting, completed their decorations. Refreshments were on tap while they worked, and everyone enjoyed the industrious yet sociable occasions. Many thanks went to Margaret and Tina for all the hard work they put in to these very enjoyable and creative sessions.

New members are very welcome to join the group.

Hemyock WI

AT the November Meeting of Hemyock WI in Forbes Lounge, President Lyn Taylor welcomed members and said she did not think the speaker would turn up!

He didn't, but members enjoyed taking more time to discuss the county business and spent a lot of time talking about speakers and demonstrations for the coming year.

Competition winners were Pat, Fay and Bridget.

At the December meeting there will be a bring and share supper and everyone will go home with a flower arrangement, under the instruction of two or three of the members.

The competition will be for a handmade card plus the flower of the month.

Hemyock WI meets on the first Tuesday of each month in Forbes Lounge at 7.30pm.

Blackdown Mother's Union

THIS year Mothers' Union is shinning a light on violence against women and girls, with a clear message that #itsnotok.

The Blackdown Mothers' Union met in St Mary's, Hemyock, in November to light candles and pray to show their support for the Campaign "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence", which finishes on December 10th.

London members of MU will have delivered a petition with more than 3,500 signatures to 10 Downing Street, to ask that victims of domestic abuse be exempt from the "collect and pay" charges for using the statutory Child Maintenance Service as they may have no other option to receive or make payments for their children without further risk of abuse of violence. Using a family-based arrangement or a Direct Pay could result in ongoing contact with the abuser, placing survivors at further risk.

Hemyock Bowls Club

FIFTY members of Hemyock Bowls Club gathered at the Lakeview restaurant for their annual dinner to celebrate a successful 2016 season.

Club chairman Howard Barns made presentations to Barbara Heaton for outstanding services to the club and to the men's and ladies Champions of Champions, Tony Butler and Sue Risden.

New members of all ages are always welcome.

Club nights are every Friday during the season, which reopens on 15 April.

Spare bowls are available for anyone who would like to come along and have a go.

Results 2016

Ladies C of C 4 woods 21 shots: Greenslade.

Ladies 2 wood 21 ends: 1, Sue Risdon; 2, Shirley Phillips

Terry Doble Memorial, Men's C of C 4 woods 21shots: 1, Tony Butler; 2, John Bendle.

President's Prize, Men's 2 woods 21 ends; 1, Colin Risdon; 2, Howard Barnes.

Knowlman & Son, Open 3 woods 18 ends: 1, Sue Risdon; 2, Derek Prettejohn.

Men's Drawn Handicap Pairs 4 woods 21 ends: Colin Risdon and Howard Barns.

Olive Knight Trophy, Ladies Drawn Handicap 4 woods 21 ends: 1, Barbara Heaton and Vilna Hardy; 2, Jo Blackmore and Helen Lancaster.

VI Northan Trophy, Mixed Nominated Pairs 4 woods 21 ends: 1, Sandra Featherstone and John Bendle; 2, Jo Blackmore and Derek Prettejohn.

Mixed Drawn Triples 3 woods 18 ends: 1, Sue Risdon, Sandra Featherstone, and Derek Prettejohn; 2, Shirley Phillips Adrian Hay and Geoff Hardy.

Jubilee Shield, Open First Timers 4 woods 21 ends: 1, Howard Barns; 2, Runner up Adrian Hay.

Blakdown Hills Transition Group

AN ill-informed opinion, why ill informed? Well because I am writing about savings and investments something I have not had much practice at.

But of late I hear quite several people bemoaning the miniscule interest they now get on their savings. Well how would you fancy a seven per cent return on your money?

Seven per cent is what is on offer from a company called TLS Hydro who develop and run small scale hydroelectric schemes in the UK. Now I must be very clear, investments are NOT savings and "your capital is at risk when you invest, so never risk more than you can afford to lose".

Now while I am ill-informed about savings I do know that we are getting plenty of rain (the power source), the price of electricity is heading upwards (the promise of our new nuclear power station only makes that more certain) and small scale hydro generation is relatively simple technology.

When making any decision to invest it is important to weigh the risk, but I personally wonder how much riskier this is than relying on a bank and a Government guarantee.

There is also the point that this type of investment not only gives a financial return, it also strengthens and secures our country's electricity supply without increasing the levels of carbon in the atmosphere. So, good for now and even better for the future.

Have a look here https://loco2energy.com/our-green-energy/invest-in-renewables or see this article https://www.theguardian.com/money/2015/mar/14/tls-hydro-bond-green-investors-renewable-energy-triodos

Now for some sound advice – don't take my advice when it comes to your money – do your own research.

Tim Clewer
Blackdown Hills
Transition Group

Bishopswood Ladies

VICTORIA Southcott commenced the latest meeting of Bishopswood Ladies with reports of the various activities during October.

The ramblers, led by Louise and Anne, had walked from Thorncombe to Forde Abbey and along the river before returning to the community shop in Thorncombe for a welcome cup of tea.

In a busy month the skittlers had played three matches, winning against Ilminster WI and Stockland and losing heavily to Smeatharpe.

The Bells are soon to commence their winter programme, playing in different venues.

Shaun McCormack then gave a very instructive talk about the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard.

This is not to be confused with the Yeomen Warders of the Tower of London. The Bodyguard was formed in 1485 by Henry VII to protect the sovereign, and this was their role for 300 years, but since then their role has been ceremonial.

James I fixed their number at 79, six officers and 73 yeomen.

The yeomen are drawn from servicemen with distinguished records and receive the princely sum of £100 annually for their efforts.

They parade at official royal events such as the state opening of parliament, investitures and royal weddings and funerals.

Shaun had brought his uniform and this was passed round so that members could feel the weight and see the detail. The uniform has hardly changed since the days of Henry VIII. It consists of a black hat decorated with red, white and blue bows, a red embroidered wool coat, white pleated ruff, red trousers, black shoes with tricoloured rosettes and red stockings and suspenders or more usually nowadays, red tights with a strategically placed hole. This last item drew gales of laughter from members.

The Bodyguard carry swords and partizans, tall spear-like implements. For the first time two women have been approved and will join the Bodyguard in 2018.

After absorbing all this information members relaxed over refreshments provided by Rose Gratton, Pru Rose and Tricia Taylor.

At the December meeting Chris Cluff will speak about "Antique Clocks of the West Country. There will be a bring and share supper and non members will be welcome.

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Blackdown Woodland Ramblings

By John Greenshields

A NEW Forestry Commission grant opened last week aimed at encouraging planting of new large-scale multi-purpose woodlands across the country.

This will help to meet the Government's future carbon targets and deliver a wide range of other benefits including increased recreation, biodiversity, improved water quality, prevention of soil erosion, enhanced flood protection and producing timber and wood fuel.

The scheme is open to landowners, eligible farmers, local authorities, community forests and others.

Multiple ownerships can apply for one scheme.

Maximum grants available will range between £6,800 and £8,500 per hectare depending on its location, with the higher rate available where there is an access need and permissive access is granted.

Discretionary footpath access payments will also be available.

Visit www.forestry.gov.uk/england-wcf for more information.

Sometimes it seems not worth the hassle to apply for a grant with all the paper work etc, but you have to remember it's public money and the Government has to make sure its being used correctly.

There are helpful guidelines on both the Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission's websites.

On a lighter side we take in Duke of Edinburgh award students on a countryside residential week course and one of the activities is to make your own thumb stick.

After I have explained what a thumb stick is they cut and make their own, while they are whittling their hazel rod I ask them what they are thinking of, they always say nothing. It's a bit like fishing, whittling completely empties the mind and is great therapy.

Another activity is doing tree and hedge surveys.

Now you, and indeed they, may say what's the point, but especially with tree surveys on older trees this could flag up a future problem.

For instance on a large 400-year oak a limb at risk can be sorted before it cracks off and causes damage to the tree.

Most insurance companies will insist on a tree survey if next to roads or houses.

The other point of tree surveys are that if you store the surveys on your computer it means that when you are long gone, one of your great, great, great grandchildren may do another survey on the same tree, this will give them a great insight into the life of older trees.

If you want to do your own surveys I would be happy to email you the survey form.

Please note new email address parkfarmwoods@btinternet.com.

New owners are banking on a bright future at Candlelight Inn

HOSPITALITY newcomers Simon MacLeod and Mike Rose have left senior management positions in the banking sector to take over an award-winning gastropub in the Blackdown Hills.

Simon and Mike have bought the Candlelight Inn in Bishopswood, following a nationwide search for their "dream property" through hospitality specialists Colliers International.

Renowned for its menus featuring local produce, and also its local ciders and gravity-pulled beer, the Candlelight Inn had been on the market for £600,000.

Mike said: "In our previous lives we had advised people on investing into the hospitality sector and lent money to enable them to buy a pub, hotel or restaurant – and we really wanted to get involved."

Simon and Mike worked for the same banking organisation in Manchester – but their search for their first hospitality venture led them into South Somerset and the Blackdown Hills.

"We fell in love with the stunning location and fabulous food. The team here are outstanding and that made the decision for us," said Mike.

THE Candlelight Inn

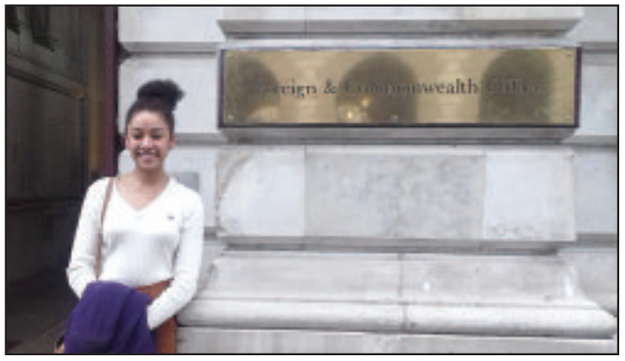
Student's insight into Foreign Office workings

A TRIP to the office of the Foreign Secretary and being introduced to Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP was the highlight of a visit by Cheyenne Jordan to Whitehall, organised by the Children's Commissioner for England and the Cabinet Office's Youth Policy Team.

Miss Jordan, from Hemyock, was one of a number of young people selected to be part of the annual Takeover Challenge event, but was the only one at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

A student at Richard Huish College, the 17-year-old hopes to attend university to study economics, and was delighted to be offered the opportunity to shadow the Director General – Economic and Consular at the Foreign Office.

She was given a tour of the Foreign Office building and also attended meetings as well as a private wreath laying ceremony for Foreign Office officials who had died in the line of duty.



SEVENTEEN-year-old Cheyenne Jordan outside the Foreign Office

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Golden glory for Blackdowns' tourism businesses

THE Old Kennels in Dunkeswell was presented with a gold award in the "Artistic, Cultural and Learning Experience" category in the recent Devon Tourism Awards.

The award was presented by local Olympic gold medalist Jo Pavey MBE at Exeter University Great Hall.

Tracey Bell of The Old Kennels said: "Winning such a prestigious award in the company of so many exceptional Devon businesses was indeed a proud moment."

Other finalists in the category were The Virtual Jet Centre in Chudleigh who gained Silver, Plymouth Gin, Seaton Tramway and South Devon Railway who gained joint Bronze.

This award adds to the gold award that The Old Kennels already hold from Green Tourism Business Scheme and Platinum Green Leaders from Tripadvisor, which both endorse their green credentials.

The Old Kennels is a family business run from a converted barn just outside Dunkeswell. They have been offering an eclectic mix of courses since 2002. During that time they have built a reputation locally and nationally for engaging highly skilled and respected tutors, and providing a welcoming, relaxed and supportive atmosphere in which to learn, a place to escape the stresses of modern living, relax and immerse yourself in creativity.

This latest award bears testimony to the quality of tuition, warm welcome and wide range of courses that are on offer - from Stone Carving to Bronze Casting, Printmaking to Paper Marbling you will find new and exciting courses every year. They make a perfect break from a busy life or a really different gift. Their full range of courses can be seen on their website www.theoldkennels.co.uk.

Honiton's Thelma Hulbert Gallery (THG) has scooped a gold award at the Devon Tourism Awards.

THG was up against two other finalists from the county to win the award for "Access and Inclusivity" (National Marine Aquarium, Plymouth and Stover Country Park Local Nature Reserve, Newton Abbott).

"We are thrilled!" said Angela Blackwell, THG's Manager and Curator.

"It is fantastic that all the hard work put in by the staff and our wonderful team of volunteers has been recognized through this award.

"We always strive to meet the varied access needs of our visitors, constantly improving physical access and expanding our programme of community exhibitions, accessible workshops and activities.

TRACEY Bell from The Old Kennels Dunkeswell accepting her award from Jo Pavy

THE Thelma Hulbert Gallery team with their award

Rhys Roberts, Chair of the newly formed Visit Devon community interest company congratulated the finalists: "I am full of admiration for this year's finalists, leading lights in Devon's tourism industry who continue to enhance the visitor experience on offer across this wonderful county."

Awards organizer Robin Barker added: "This year's winners exemplify so much of what is great about Devon - innovation, outstanding service and superb experiences. Many congratulations to everyone involved."

Honiton's Deer Park Country House Hotel was awarded bronze in the "Hotel of the Year" category and Gold in the "Dog Friendly Business of the Year", and Andrewshayes Caravan Park at Dalwood won Bronze in the "Camping and Caravaning" category.

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• Turkeys • Geese • Ducks • Chickens • Christmas Trees •
• Handmade Holly Wreaths • Hampers •
• Seasonal Game • Christmas Cakes •
• Mince Pies • Clotted Cream •

Opening Times
Tue - Fri: 9am - 5pm Sat: 9am - 4pm Sun: 9am - 12 noon

Find us at: Hayne Farm, Gittisham, Honiton, Devon EX14 3PD
01404 44375 - www.bartlettsfarmshopdevon.co.uk

Wonderful assortment of entertainment at The Beehive

After a very busy autumn things are really hotting up for Christmas at The Beehive with a wonderful assortment of entertainment to suit all tastes.

There are some fabulous family films and why traipse down to Exeter or Taunton when you can relax with your friends and family at The Beehive cinema?

To really begin the festive season the Royal Opera House live screening of The Royal Ballet performing 'The Nutcracker' is on Thursday 8th Dec at 7.15pm. We offer special family tickets and there are still some seats available for this event.

Other upcoming films include the touching true tale of a Ugandan child prodigy, chess player who raises her family from the slums in Disney's 'Queen Of Katwe' (PG) on Fri 9th, then we have two showings of 'Trolls'(U) at 3 & 5pm on Sat 10th and two showings of 'Dr Strange'(12A) on Sat 17th at 5pm & 7.30pm.

On Friday 23rd at 2pm the fabulous festive 'Holiday Inn' starring Bing Crosby & Fred Astaire is our Nostalgic Cinema screening, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the café bar all for only £3.50! This is a Dementia friendly screening for all.

Our live music kicks off with the brilliant 'Buffalo Summer', a big bluesy band of Welsh rockers. They are seriously good - listen online to their latest tracks, big in Europe and rapidly earning a reputation here Fri 2nd Dec.

Virtuoso guitarist Clive Carroll returns to the West country to give a workshop prior to his concert on the evening of 3rd Dec. This will be an inspirational evening of Spanish guitar classics, Originals, Medieval lute music, Delta blues & hints of Chet Atkins and Django Reinhardt all played by this World-Class guitarist.

For something totally different gather your friends or work mates and Rock up & Frock up or come Suited & Booted to the Flower Power Xmas Party on Friday 16th Dec. After meeting up in the bar for a glass of fizz and nibbles, be seated at your table for a 3 course homemade supper while enjoying the '60s & '70s show. Then get in the groove and dance the night away to the fabulous funky, Flower Power Band!

Another fantastic live act and usually an annual sell out is our Xmas 'Mad Dog Mcrea' gig. This year it's even better value as we have the awesome 'Eskies' as the support act- so don't be late for this one!

One show that must not be missed is fab for the children, a special 11am show of 'Freya-The Viking Saga' on Mon 19th Dec all tickets £5. This is the story of a plucky young Viking lass told with a great mixture of humour, music, puppetry and two actors in a really charming show.

Looking forward to seeing you at The Beehive soon!

Box office 01404384050 or check out our website www.beehivehoniton.co.uk

Christmas Tasting Night

Barleymow's

FARM SHOP & RESTAURANT

Wednesday 7th December • 4pm - 7pm

- Serving mulled wine and mince pies
- Free tastings • Meet our suppliers/producers
- Your chance to beat the rush and order your Christmas meats, Christmas cakes and other goodies
- Selection of Hampers and gift ideas on display
- Norwegian Fir and Spruce Christmas Trees

Giant Christmas Hamper Raffle in aid of S.U.R.E
(Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment)

Your traditional Christmas starts at Barleymow's

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www.barleymowsfarmshop.co.uk

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Home Cured Gammons, Ox Tongues, Salt Beef, Rib Beef on Bone, Rack Lamb, Cushion of Lamb, Sausage Meat, Hand Linked Sausages and much more for your festive table

Christmas Meat Hamper

£25 - Corn Fed Chicken - Gammon Joint - Pork Chipolatas Bacon - Sausage Meat - Pork Chops

£35 - Topside Joint - Gammon Joint - Bacon Sausage Meat - Pork Chipolatas - Pork Chops

*Not actual image

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Christmas in the Blackdown Hills

Ye Olde Poppe Inn

Christmas Party Menu

Two Courses £14.95
Three Courses £19.95

STARTERS

Breaded Camembert
Served with salad & cranberry sauce

Tempura Prawns Skewers
Served with salad & sweet chilli sauce

Paté
Served with toast & salad garnish

Soup of the Day
Served with warm roll & butter

MAIN COURSES
All served with roast potatoes & seasonal vegetables

Traditional Roast Turkey
With all the trimmings

Roast Topside of Beef
With homemade Yorkshire Pudding

Handmade Mushroom & Spinach Pie

DESSERTS

Christmas Pudding

Homemade Apple Crumble

Ice Cream Sundae

Cheese & Biscuits
£2 supplement

Non refundable deposit of £5pp required on booking.
Balance due on the day of your party.

Christmas Day Menu

Adults £49.95
Child Under 12 £19.95

COMPLIMENTARY PROSECCO ON ARRIVAL

STARTERS

Homemade Soup of the Day
Served with a warm roll & butter

'Bloody Mary' Prawn Cocktail
Served with bread & butter

Paté
Served with toast & salad garnish

Breaded Camembert
Served with salad & cranberry sauce

MAIN COURSES
All served with roast potatoes & seasonal vegetables

Traditional Roast Turkey
With all the trimmings

Roast Topside of Beef
With homemade Yorkshire Pudding

Handmade Mushroom & Spinach Pie

DESSERTS

Christmas Pudding

Homemade Apple Crumble

Ice Cream Sundae

Cheese & Biscuits

TEA OR COFFEE & MINCE PIES

Non refundable deposit of £10pp required on booking.
Balance due by Friday 9th December.

Celebrate Christmas With Us Axminster Road, Tatworth, Chard TA20 2NZ
Telephone: 01460 22 00 63

Get into the festive spirit by shopping at Knighthayes

Every time you shop at Knightshayes and tick something off your Christmas list, you're supporting the vital work the National Trust does.

This year, there's no excuse not to make the trip to stock up on Christmas goodies, with three fairs being held in November. At the Food and Drink Fair (12 & 13 November), you'll find small brewers and vineyards selling by the glass and bottle, and loads of locally sourced foods and edible gifts.

The popular Craft & Gift Fair (18-20 November) showcases only the best local, artisan craftspeople and producers - we've got everything from chocolate pizzas to charming pottery and Christmas puddings to pencil cases. All hand-made, all local and all you need for Christmas.

Lastly, there's a chance to get in touch with your inner child at the Toys, Trains and Tinsel Fair (27 Nov). With stalls selling gifts, arty and crafty kids' activities (including decorating the Knightshayes Christmas tree) and books and toys for sale. Don't forget we also sell some fantastic gifts and decorations in our own shop too. All the fairs are free to access in our stables, so what's your excuse for not visiting Knightshayes this November?

I feeling festive

Shopping at Knightshayes
Every time you visit to tick presents off your list, you help us look after Knightshayes. There are three festive fairs at Knightshayes this November: Food and Drink Fair - 12-13 Nov, Craft and Gift Fair - 18-20 Nov and Toy, Trains and Tinsel Fair - 27 Nov.
Free entry to fairs
01884 254665
nationaltrust.org.uk/knightshayes
National Trust

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Last years Christmas trees went to: *Cathedrals, Castles, Hotels, Pubs, Shopping Centres, Garden Centres, National Trust, Schools, TV Personalities and City Centres.*

This year we hope **YOU** will come to us and choose your fresh tree
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Farm: **01404 891684** / Home: **01884 841694**

To advertise in View from the Blackdowns contact Alex Phryce-Jones on 01297 35750

Sample the festive delights at The Aviator this Christmas

THE Aviator Coffee Bar and Restaurant in Dunkeswell prides itself in offering a comfortable, high quality dining service.

There are beautiful views to enjoy across the airfield, while you sit back and relax in a modern space.

The Aviator's Christmas menu includes some tempting dishes. Starters include spicy roasted parsnip soup, king prawns in filo pastry and mushrooms in stilton sauce. Main courses on offer, other than the traditional roast turkey with all the trimmings, include rib of beef with black pepper & brandy sauce, creamy spinach & mushroom stroganoff, and poached salmon with parsley sauce. To finish, Christmas pudding, chocolate torte and cheese & biscuits are all on the menu.

Two courses cost £12.95 per person and three courses £16.95 (children's meals are £6.95 and £8.95 respectively). Pre-booking is essential – phone 01404 890009.

The Aviator also caters for weddings, functions and meetings. It also offers a very competitive range of outside corporate refreshments to suit your needs.

Regular events include live music, themed nights and parties.

The Aviator is closed on Christmas Day, the evening of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, but open for a Boxing Day carvery from 12noon to 3pm – again, pre-booking is essential. Opening times are normal between Christmas and New Year with the Thursday carvery going ahead as usual on December 29th from 5pm to 8pm.

Axcess Electric Bikes are setting the standard for power and quality

AXCESS-ELECTRIC-BIKES in Honiton have increased the range of their own bikes with the introduction of the Eriskay crossbar and Camargue step-through bikes. Designed especially for them, these 2 bikes combine the best of European styling with the opportunities offered by the latest lithium battery technology and advances in electric bike components.

Peter Blackman, the Managing Director commented "Electric bikes need to be nice bikes to ride as bicycles, before the electric is even switched on. That is why we chose the larger 700C wheels. The design is also improved by locating the battery in the down tube rather than behind the seat post or on the back rack"

The two bikes, which use the same electric components, are designed for riders who want a comfortable road bike capable of completing long road or path tours. Following changes in EU law in Jan 2016 both bikes are fitted with 2016 compliant throttles.

The Aviator
Coffee Bar & Restaurant
CHRISTMAS MENU
AVAILABLE FROM 1ST - 24TH DECEMBER

Monday to Saturday lunchtimes

Boxing Day Carvery 12-3pm Bookings only - call now to reserve your table!

Spicy Roasted Parsnip Soup
Served with ciabatta and butter
King Prawns wrapped in Filo Pastry
Served with sweet chilli sauce and salad garnish
Mushrooms in Stilton Sauce
Served with ciabatta and butter

Traditional Roast Turkey with all the trimmings
Rib of Beef with Black Pepper & Brandy Sauce & Yorkshire Pudding
Creamy Spinach and Mushroom Stroganoff
Poached Salmon with Parsley Sauce
All served with roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce
Chocolate Torte & Cream (gluten free)
Cheese and Biscuits

Two Courses £12.95 Three Courses £16.95
Children £6.95 and £8.95
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Please Telephone: 01404 890009
The Aviator Dunkeswell Airfield, EX14 4LG

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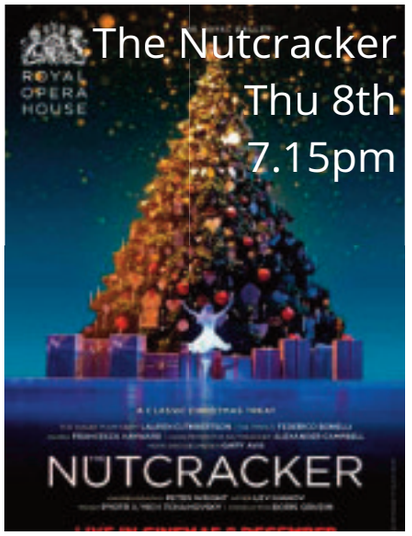

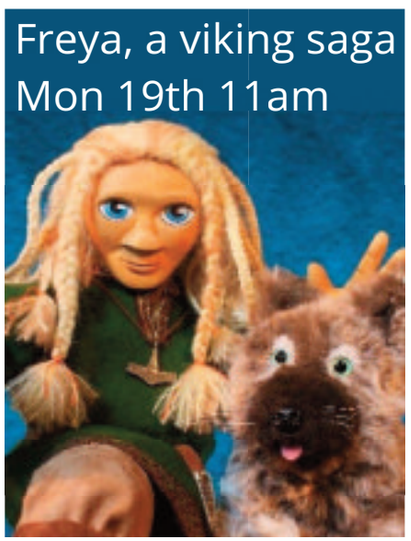

December Entertainment in Honiton

the beehive

Dowell St, Honiton EX14 1LZ
Tel: 01404 384050
www.beehivehoniton.co.uk

what's on in and around the Blackdown Hills

Enjoy a medieval Christmas at museum

THE Museum of Somerset is preparing plenty of festive family fun for the Christmas holidays.

The museum will be open until 2pm on Christmas Eve, and will then close for Christmas Day and Boxing Day before re-opening on Tuesday, December 27th until December 31st.

Christmas events start on Thursday, December 1st with Taunton's late night opening from 5pm to 8pm. There will be community carol singing and crafts as part of Christmas Fest LIVE celebrations on Castle Green and late night shopping in the town. This is a free drop-in event.

Santa's Grotto will be open on Saturday, December 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th, as well as on Wednesday, December 21st between 10am and 5pm.

Families are encouraged to book their time slot in advance to avoid disappointment.

Throughout December families can also enjoy the Reindeer Trail around the museum in search of cuddly reindeer. Santa's Grotto costs £4 per child, and includes a gift, and the Reindeer Trail costs £1 per child.

The museum is also hosting two festive musical events, including seasonal and local songs.

On Saturday, December 10th at 7.30pm, the museum welcomes the Voice of the People Community Choir and Halsway Manor Choir for *A West Country Christmas*.

Directed by Yvette Staelens, they will perform traditional and folk carols from the West of England.

Tickets are £8.50 and booking is advised.

The evening compliments *Somerset Sisters in Song*, a new exhibition at the museum which explores the story of Cecil Sharp and folk song collecting.

The exhibition focuses on the female singers who sang hundreds of songs to Sharp in the early 1900s.

On Tuesday December 20th at 7.30pm the acclaimed historical musicians Green Matthews will perform *A Medieval Christmas*. The evening will feature long-forgotten festive songs played on authentic instruments.

GREEN Matthews will be performing at the Medieval Christmas event at the Museum of Somerset

Tickets are £12.50 and booking is advised.

Susie Simmons, Visitor Services Manager at the museum, said: "We're really looking forward to welcoming visitors to our festive events this Christmas. Santa's Grotto looks magical for the children and the musical events will be the perfect way to get into the Christmas spirit."

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2016 HOLIDAYS

DEC 2	4 DAYS	CHRISTMAS AT TATTON PARK & ARLEY HALL FLORAL EXTRAVAGANZA	£199.00
DEC 2	4 DAYS	FOLKESTONE TURKEY & TINSEL & BRUGES CHRISTMAS MARKET	£159.00
DEC 2	4 DAYS	ROCHESTER'S DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL	£195.00
DEC 2	4 DAYS	GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS ... COLOGNE & DUSSELDORF	£259.00
DEC 4	5 DAYS	CHRISTIAN BASED LAKE DISTRICY TURKEY & TINSEL	£245.00
DEC 9	4 DAYS	BRUGES & GHENT CHRISTMAS MARKETS	£259.00
DEC 10	2 DAYS	BLISTS HILL VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS & BIRMINGHAM CHRISTMAS MARKET	£95.00
DEC 10	2 DAYS	CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WEEKEND IN CALAIS	£99.00
DEC 21	8 DAYS	CHRISTMAS IN SWITZERLAND	£675.00
DEC 22	7 DAYS	CHRISTMAS IN THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS	£545.00
DEC 23	5 DAYS	CHRISTMAS IN CANTERBURY	£495.00
DEC 28	6 DAYS	CRUISING THE RIVER RHINE FOR NEW YEAR	£575.00
DEC 30	4 DAYS	NEW YEAR IN SHROPSHIRE	£295.00
DEC 30	4 DAYS	NEW YEAR IN NORTH WALES	£309.00

2017 HOLIDAYS

JAN 7	2 DAYS	LONDON THEATRE WEEKEND	£185.00
JAN 7	2 DAYS	A WEEKEND IN LONDON	£99.00
JAN 8	10 DAYS	SPANISH WINTER SUN & THE SPECTACULAR PYRENEES	£449.00
JAN 9	5 DAYS	WARNER BREAK...LAKESIDE COASTAL RESORT	£225.00
JAN 28	2 DAYS	A WEEKEND IN HEREFORD & WORCESTER	£74.00
JAN 30	5 DAYS	LLANDUDNO LANDLUBBERS CRUISE (NO SAILING!)	£319.00
JAN 28	7 DAYS	AUSTRIAN WINTERWONDERLAND	£399.00
FEB 4	2 DAYS	A MYSTERY WEEKEND	£79.00
FEB 17	4 DAYS	RHUBARB RHUBARB RHUBARB	£199.00
FEB 21	4 DAYS	HODSOCK PRIORY SNOWDROPS	£189.00
FEB 25	2 DAYS	A WEEKEND IN PORTSMOUTH & WINCHESTER	£79.00
FEB 27	5 DAYS	WINTER WARMER MONSCHAU	£315.00
MAR 4	2 DAYS	A WEEKEND IN STRATFORD & EVESHAM	£75.00
MAR 4	8 DAYS	ITALY CLASSIC LAKE GARDA	£445.00
MAR 5	5 DAYS	WINTER WARMER - PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK	£239.00
MAR 11	2 DAYS	A WEEKEND IN SOUTH WALES	£69.00
MAR 13	5 DAYS	SHOWTIME IN NORTH WALES	£265.00
MAR 13	5 DAYS	LAKE DISTRICT ALL INCLUSIVE	£275.00
MAR 15	5 DAYS	DUBLIN INCLUDING THE ST PATRICKS DAY PARADE	£319.00
MAR 18	2 DAYS	A WEEKEND IN CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER	£79.00
MAR 19	6 DAYS	SCOTLAND... SPRINGTIME IN THE HIGHLANDS	£315.00
MAR 20	5 DAYS	YORKSHIRE WINTER WARMER	£235.00
MAR 23	5 DAYS	JERSEY BY AIR	£389.00
MAR 25	2 DAYS	WEEKEND IN SOUTHAMPTON & THE NEW FOREST	£79.00
MAR 27	5 DAYS	SPRINGTIME IN TENBY	£235.00
APR 1	5 DAYS	SPRINGTIME ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT	£265.00
APR 5	4 DAYS	ANTIQUES FAIR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	£199.00
APR 9	5 DAYS	DUTCH BULBFIELDS CRUISE	£485.00

2017 HOLIDAYS

APR 10	5 DAYS	WEYMOUTH MOCK CRUISE (NO SAILING!)	£289.00
APR 14	4 DAYS	EASTER IN KENT - THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND	£229.00
APR 16	5 DAYS	THE DUTCH BULBFIELDS & THE BEST OF HOLLAND	£425.00
APR 17	5 DAYS	SINGLES GALORE, NORTH WALES	£279.00
APR 17	5 DAYS	A REAL TASTE OF IRELAND	£289.00
APR 23	2 DAYS	DANIEL O'DONNELL IN CONCERT, OXFORD	£165.00
APR 23	8 DAYS	SPRINGTIME IN THE AUSTRIAN LAKE DISTRICT	£449.00
APR 24	5 DAYS	WARNER BREAK BODELWYDDAN CASTLE, NORTH WALES	£325.00
APR 28	5 DAYS	LLANDUDNO TRANSPORT FESTIVAL	£189.00
MAY 1	5 DAYS	CORNISH GARDENS TOUR	£315.00
MAY 1	5 DAYS	A CUMBRIAN JOURNEY & CARLISLE – SETTLE RAILWAY	£299.00
MAY 1	5 DAYS	HIDDEN TREASURES OF LUXEMBOURG	£329.00
MAY 5	4 DAYS	THE VALE OF EVESHAM BLOSSOM TRAIL	£195.00
MAY 6	2 DAYS	FILM MUSIC GALA, ROYAL ALBERT HALL	£139.00
MAY 7	8 DAYS	SCOTLAND... THE HIGHLANDS & MALLAIG STEAM TRAIN	£545.00
MAY 8	5 DAYS	GUERNSEY	£399.00
MAY 8	5 DAYS	JERSEY	£325.00
MAY 8	5 DAYS	GRANDEUR IN YORKSHIRE & A TOUCH OF VICTORIA	£295.00
MAY 9	5 DAYS	LLANDUDNO & THEWELSH HIGHLAND RAILWAY	£345.00
MAY 14	9 DAYS	SPAIN... THE COSTA BRAVA	£489.00
MAY 14	5 DAYS	COLONEL MUSTARD IN THE STUDY WITH A PORK PIE!	£299.00
MAY 14	7 DAYS	THE HEART OF IRELAND	£455.00
MAY 15	5 DAYS	THE LOVELY LAKE DISTRICT	£325.00

2017 GREAT VALUE BREAKS

JAN 9	5 DAYS	ALL THINGS BRIGHTON BEAUTIFUL	£155.00
JAN 9	5 DAYS	THE LAKE DISTRICT & YORKSHIRE DALES	£169.00
JAN 16	5 DAYS	THE KENT COAST & BRUGES	£145.00
JAN 16	5 DAYS	A TASTE OF THREE COUNTIES	£165.00
JAN 23	5 DAYS	A TASTE OF FOUR COUNTIES	£175.00
JAN 30	5 DAYS	STRATFORD & THE COTSWOLDS	£155.00
JAN 30	5 DAYS	UNDISCOVERED GEMS OF SOUTH WALES	£169.00
FEB 6	5 DAYS	THE KENT COAST & BRUGES	£149.00
FEB 6	5 DAYS	ISLE OF WIGHT	£185.00
FEB 13	5 DAYS	SUSSEX COAST & ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS	£175.00
FEB 20	5 DAYS	ISLE OF WIGHT	£185.00
FEB 20	5 DAYS	DORSET & THE NEW FOREST	£169.00
FEB 24	4 DAYS	ENTERTAINMENT BREAK IN SOUTH WALES	£129.00
FEB 27	5 DAYS	NORTH WALES & SNOWDONIA... ENTERTAINMANT BREAK	£195.00
FEB 27	5 DAYS	THE PEAK DISTRICT & DERBYSHIRE DALES	£195.00
JAN 30	5 DAYS	YORK, WHITBY & SCARBOROUGH	£175.00
MAR 6	5 DAYS	ALL THINGS BRIGHTON BEAUTIFUL	£185.00
MAR 6	5 DAYS	A TASTE OF FOUR COUNTIES	£189.00
MAR 6	5 DAYS	NORTH DEVON & EXMOOR EXPLORER	£159.00
MAR 20	5 DAYS	THE KENT COAST & BRUGES	£149.00

Please phone for a copy of our brochures. Departure points include Wellington, Taunton & Honiton

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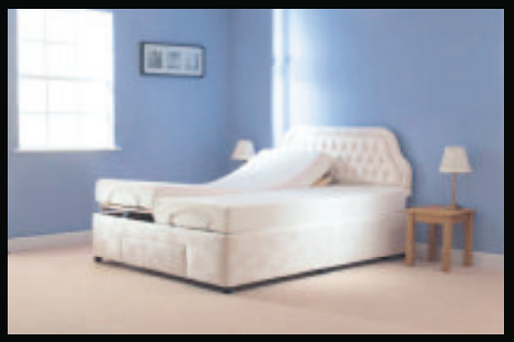
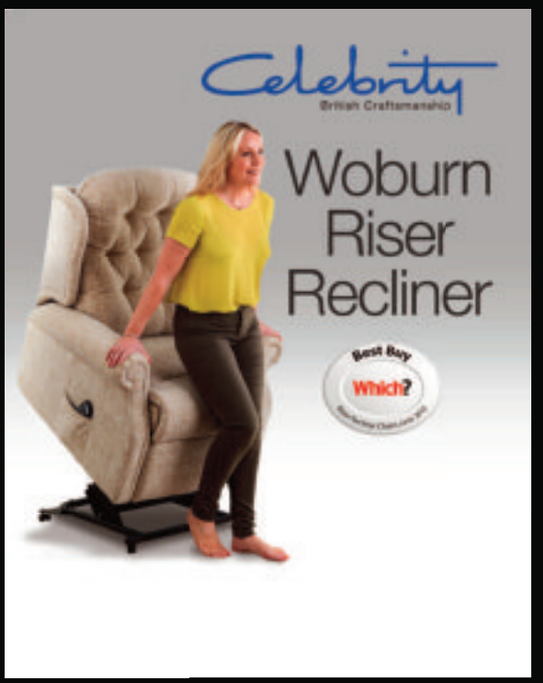
HONITON MOBILITY CENTRE

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I cover all areas within and around the Blackdown Hills including Taunton, Collumpton, Wellington, Chard, Ilminster, Honiton, Axminster, Hemyock, Culmstock and any villages inbetween.

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